

Application No. 10/087,592

REMARKS

Claims 13-15 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 12 is cancelled and claim 13 is amended, claims 1-2 and 8-11 having been withdrawn from consideration previously.

Claim 13 is amended to be in independent form, containing the limitations of cancelled claim 12.

No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 4,580,006 to Hull in view of U.S. Patent 6,366,442 to Onodera. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, the limitations of now cancelled claim 12 have been added to claim 13. Claim 13 is now written in independent form. In view of the amendments to claim 13, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 13-15 were objected to as dependent from a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 12. All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

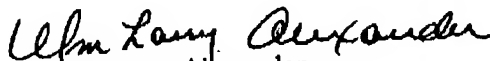
Applicants reserve the right to prosecute all withdrawn and cancelled claims in divisional and continuing applications.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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